## COMMUNICATION.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF ASTRONOMY.

" For I can never think of handing over to the stars the efice of Deity to produce effects and to preserve order.

KEPLER. It is remarkable that there never has been but one attempted explanation of the cause of the orderly motion of the heavenly bodies, though this one idea in the suc- books of the science?

cession of ages has been variously modified. The most ancient astronomers, well persuaded in their minds that there could exist no mechanism which moved the spheres, as one wheel by its gearing into another communicates its motion; that there were no tracks walled i n and made permanent to serve as rolling planes for the in space, were regulated with perfect wisdom, considered the spheres as living beings, possessing the power of locomg human intelligence to direct their flight in their ceaseless rounds.

Scott wrote: " Si astra non sunt animata, id est creditum esse potius quam demonstratum"-in English, it may be believed

Kepler's opinion on the subject has been much ridiculed, as if he stood alone a believer in this idea. He but boldly taught the long-prevailing hypothesis that the worlds were living beings; but he considered them as iving beings devoid of intelligence and subject to certain mechanion! laws.

A distinguished naturalist of the present day (Oken) mys "the world itself is alive, and continues only because of its life." So Professor Nichol: "It is said by some that matter is dead; what, then, is life?" Again: Look, then," continues Professor Nichol, "at that remote Uranus bending with life-like obedience towards the sun, and read there the truth that in the sun's essence there is an energy to draw the planets towards home as an ever active and not a whit less intelligible than any other conceivable exercise of will."-(Contemplations of the Solar System, p. 62.)

It is true that few modern astronomers present the idea so plainly and distinctly as Prof. Nichol does in this precoding extract from his verbose treatise. It is not generally said that the sun, for instance, as a whole, as one sphere, is an intelligent animal. The moderns give to sphere, is an intelligent animal. The maderns give to ism; because its tendency is to produce the philosophy each atom of the sphere a living, active, and discerning given to the world in that notorious book, "The Vestiges power. They give animation and knowledge to every particle of star-dust, so that the smallest division of a world knows of the presence of its kindred atom, and each atem, in mysterious instinct, with wonderful power, draws near to other atoms. Intelligence and power which anciently were the attributes of spheres have been taken RUSSIAN ACCOUNT OF OPERATIONS IN THE CRIMEA. from them as integral beings to vivify and empower each particle of the dust of which they are composed. Nay, farther: The life of each separate atom makes up a general life for the sphere. Associated atoms composing a world have given to them a sort of common life; the aggregate wielding the power and intelligence of each separate particle, operating by means of a centre as the heart of the animated being, which as a whole knows and attracts " as if all the matter was condensed in a central point."-(Herschel.)

The sun, ninety-five millions of miles away, without any medium of communication, knows of the existence life, power, activity, and influence of the central lumimary extends, according to Laplace, some tens of billions of miles.

So alive, so intelligent, and so powerful is matter that by its own attributes it forms itself into spheres.

"Laplace and some other advocates of the life of mat ter do not admit any necessity for a God; but by others it is supposed that the acknowledgment of a power to orginate matter is necessary, but matter, having been created and endowed with its life, (laws.) matter itself will create a universe by its own action, so that God may give himself up to undisturbed repose."-(Hitchcock's

Newton stands almost alone on a higher philosophy of the movements of the heavenly bodies. He most distinetly and implicitly disclaims the atheistical philosophy: "It is incredible," says he in a letter to Dr. Bentley, that inanimate brute matter should operate upon and affect other matter, which it must do if gravitation in the sense of Enjoyrus be essential and inherent in it; and this is the reason why I desire you would not ascribe it

The Epicuran philosophy was material and atheistical. According to their philosophy the occult properties, (virtues,) or, in other words, the life of matter, gave the form and fashion of this universe.

"This sect," says Dr. Keil, "explain motion by the elementary virtues and occult properties of matter, such as sympathies, antipathies, attractions, repulsions, and the like."

"These atheists," writes Dr. Cudworth, "assigned no cause for motion, and to avoid a God they ventured to attribute perfect understanding, will, appetite, and self-

moving power to sense less matter. The Epicurian atheirm which Newton disclaimed ha. been fastened to the "Newtonian Philosophy" by the successors of the great as tranomer. La Lande says:

"For myself I think with M. de Maupertuis, (the first continental convert to the theory of gravitation, ) and with the greater part of English philosophers, that attraction depends on an essential property (propriété intrinsique)

Newton asked himself some serious questions: How can a property of the matter of the earth have its field it is also covered by woody mountains. of activity in the moon? How can a body exert a power where it is not? Most inconclusive is the answer of Mr. Stewart to this

scepticism of Newton :

We can," says Stewart, "as readily conceive of matter acting on matter at a distance as of matter acting on other matter in contact with it."

This is most true. But the argument does not touch the point at issue. Newton did not believe that matter afar off or close at hand could influence other matter. He taught that every particle moved because of "the spiritual," because of present power emphating from God. Newton saw the tendency of the theory that matter wielded a power, and he told his friend Pemberton that when this speculation became the settled theory of philo sophy all opening for the advance of the human mind would be closed .- (Pemberton's Account of the Newtonian Philo-

Plate taught the true philosophy of motion. He con sidered the translation of a body in space (that is, motion) as passive. He recognised the spiritual an ever active power, above, beyond, and over the matter which is moved. He believed that the universe shows the power of God continually impressing on the worlds their motion

On the Platonic idea the true philosophy of the solar system will rest. There is no life, power, will, or intelligence in brute matter. One sphere is not in its place because dragged thither by another sphere. A stone does not approach the centre of the earth because the live body of the earth has power over it. The cause of motion is not a property of matter. Power does not reside of men were attacked and much property destroyed. in the materials of the universe.

What, then, is this power? It lies-"Beneath the veil of obdurate woof, Whose dim folds perpetually do stir,

Tell me, when you will to raise your hand, by what power the limb is lifted up? We know only the power is, that it comes from the human will, and not from the hand

senseless matter. It is from the volition of God.

Names in themselves are nothing. The power which determines the position of worlds may be called gravitasion, and the nature of the power remain unchanged. But, the word "gravitation" has very close associations with

the philosophy of Epicurus; it is suggestive, too often, only of the life and power of matter.

We are gratified here in recording the opinion of an eminent mathematician of Massachusetts:

"Neither myself nor any intelligent extronomer of my ac-saintance believes that the sun attracts the earth. We use the word 'attraction' as a convenient statement of the direction of the force. Force is spiritual. Consciousness thus decides this question at once.'

Why do not astronomers, then, see that this the true Newtonian philosophy is distinctly stated in the text-

Astronomy should ascend one step nearer to the Su-preme Being, by teaching that power is not an essential attribute of matter; that there is a cause for the motion of worlds not residing in the dust of which they are composed; that the sphere which rolls through space has no controlling influence on the motion of other worlds. Cause and effect should be separated, should be thrown as wide stars; and that the movements of the planets, though free apart in philosophy as they are in practical life. The human body and the life of the body, matter and that which moves matter, the planets and the power which gives position to the planets, are no more one and the same thing motion, and being endowed with intelligence far surpass- than is God, the creator, and man, the created, one and

M. Bailly said : " La folie de l'homme a tovjours été de Aristotle believed that the planets were animated.

He taught that every star had an immortal intelligence by which it governed its own movement. This idea can be traced farther back than the time of Aristotle; and science to confound the distinction, which common sense afteen bundred years after that date the subtile Doctor acknowledges, between a world which is moved and the power by which the world is translated through the realms

but it cannot be proved that the stars are not living sideration of the nebular speculation of Laplace, which, it has been recently asserted, is favored by American astronomers

A mere description of this theory shows it to be a branch of the Epicurean atheism. We will take the description from a believer in the hypothesis:

"The assemblage of stars that form our present solar system was at first one of those mysterious nebulæ which we see floating in space. But the development begins. A principle of concentration counterbalances the unlimited expansion, and brings the particles nearer together, and grasps them in a spheroidal mass. \* \* \* The gase-ous spheroid then resolves itself into local agglomerations, which separate from each other into distinct spheres, either by the successive separations of separate layers of the sun's atmosphere or in virtue of some other property

Does not this resemble the philosophy of Epicurus? Does it not clothe matter with power, with attractions and maintain the universe? We do not impute atheism to the supporters of the nebular hypothesis. Far from it. There are men who incline to the hypothesis (and we speak from personal knowledge) who reverence and adore the Supreme Being. We have alluded to the origin and tendency of the speculation because its origin is from rank atheof Creation;" because it conceals, under the philosophic terms of the Epicureans, ("sympathies, antipathies, at-tractions, repulsions," and the like,) the actual being and constant presence of Him of whom alone the stars should declare the glory.

FROM THE JOURNAL DE ST. PETERSBOURGH.

The Anglo-French conducted their united forces before from the north of that town to the south, thus entirely changing the basis of operations. They obtained this object by a flank march round the town. The organs of the foreign press cannot find expressions to praise sufficiently the skilfulness of the manusure. Without wishing to detract from the merit of it, at least, it is just to mention also, and to explain, the operations of Prince Menschikoff in reference to the enemy. After the battle upon the Alma the Prince, not finding a position strong enough upon the Katcha and the Belbek

to give a fresh battle to the enemy, passed the Tchernaya and directs the motion of this earth. Further still, the and concentrated his forces in a position to the east of the town, after having garrisoned the forts of the north with

a sufficient number of troops.

The enemy advanced, passed the Katcha and the Belbek, and reached the heights which surround the north-

The position of Prince Menschikoff was disadvantage. us, inasmuch as it enabled the enemy to occupy the direct communications with the interior of the empire. It was therefore necessary to abandon that position, and the Prince achieved the object by a luminous idea, carried into effect in the most daring manner. He marched during the night of the 24th to the 25th of September towards Balishiseral, after having crossed the Tebernaya by a single bridge. He executed this march in flank in the middle of the night, and on the morning of the 25th found himself in the valley of Bakshiserai, placed in the change which had taken place, and upon the intrinsic found himself in the valley of Baxsniserai, piace in fishk and rear of the enemy, having his communication of inhabitants. They are a stagnant people, in a stagnant people Prince would have been annoying to the enemy if the latter had been desirous of attempting an attack against the forts of the north. On the contrary, he adopted the Warrior river, and is flanked by a coal and from region resolution of changing the point of attack from the north ninety miles long and from ten to thirty wide, with coal hy turning the town to the east. Let it be permitted to us here to throw a light upon all that could be desired for health and comfort, and it is What was this sense in which the Epicurians regarded some circumstances which will enable an impartial judgmatter that Newton disclaimed in such emphatic words? ment to be formed respecting the operations of the two

parties. by one road, which, from the point where Mackenzie's is the seat of a flourishing institution of learning, the Farm was situated, was only at a distance of four wersts University of Alabama, whose officers consist of a prefrom the advanced posts of the enemy. Indeed, the bi-vounck fires were seen thence. The Prince could not at-tempt to cover his march by the means which are usually gentlemen I have never seen anywhere. adopted in such cases; for it was necessary, above all have hindered the movements of his column. The Prince marched with his train and park of artillery. All these difficulties were surmounted, and our troops had on the morning of the 25th reached a point where the enemy did

not suppose them to be. dversaries also executed, and almost at the same time, a flank march, but under much more advantageous in rare and valuable works, its cabinets are also of su-circumstances. From Belbek and the plateau which they perior excellence. occupied on the 24th they had only to gain Mackenzie's the Tchernaya. The enemy executed this movement without being perceived by us, for the point where Macken- niture, clothing, and travelling, need not amount to more nie's Farm is situated is at a distance of sixteen wersts than \$200 per annum. There is also going up in Tusca-

combat during his movement, because the enemy was elected in an advantageous position for it. Our adversaof the territory, could not bring about without engaging in it under unfavorable circumstances.

## LAKE SUPERIOR NEWS.

FROM THE LAKE SUPERIOR JOURNAL OF NOVEMBER 4. A MINE ATTACKED BY INDIANS .- The miners in the em ploy of the Quebec Mining Company on Michipicoten Island, on the north shore of Lake Superior, arrived here in small boats on the 21st ultimo, having been attacked by the Indians in that neighborhood and driven off from the island on the 26th ultimo. The Indians went so far as to fire at the miners, and made a very hostile demonstration. This is the second time this company has been moleated by the Indians, and may prove as serious as the Mic a Bay affair in the fall of 1850, when a large number

COPPER SHIPMENTS .- October 23, by propeller Globe, from the Minnesota Mines, 78 masses, weighing 27 tons 1,939 fb.s.; and 62 bbls., weighing 20 tons 472 lbs. Ne-braska k'ine, 24 masses, weighing 5 tons 664 lbs., and 13 barrels, weighing 3 tons 1,800 lbs. North American Mine, 37 masses, weighing 45 tons 1,682 lbs. Cliff Mine, 57 masses, weighing 25 tons 685 lbs.

TEACH ER WANTED to take charge of the which is raised up.

We know a planet moves through space. We know also that it is moved by a power which is not the attribute of that it is moved by a power which is not the attribute of qualified to prepare a student for admission into any college in the United States; the location being healthy and society

agreeable.

Address WILLIAM FOURDY, Secretary of the Board of Trustees of Minden Male Institute, Minden, La.

By order of the Roard of Trustees:

WILLIAM HARDY,

WILLIAM HARDY, Secretary Board of Trustees. A WINTER IN THE SOUTH-No. IX.

ST. STEPHENS, ALABAMA, FEBRUARY, 1854. Intending to revisit Mobile, I only remained there long enough to secure a passage up the Tombigbee and Black Warrior rivers, and in this letter I propose to embody my experiences in regard to them. What has been said generally, in the preceding letter, of the scenery, towns, and steamboats of the Alahama river is quite applicable to the rival streams flowing through the westward section of the State. My first steamboat heat up the Tombigbee took me to the quiet and pleasant town of Columbus, in Mississippi, between which place and Mobile it was impossible for me to ascertain the distance, since no two of the natives told the same story, but I remember that the anding places numbered two hundred and seventy-three. Our boat was one of the best on the river, but, as there was a strife between her and her captain as to which would carry the highest head of steam, the sail was any thing but soothing to the nerves; and moreover we were nightly beset with heavy fogs, so that the local vulgarism of "going it blind" was fully appreciated.

With the efforts of our steamboat hands to make the nightly darkness visible I was amused, for they accomplished their object by hanging out huge pinewood torches

quite exciting. The hero of the incident was a rich planter, who had been swindled out of several hundred dollars by means of marked cards, and who, having had his suspicious roused, called for a fresh pack, and when the game commenced very coolly laid a loaded pistol on the table and remarked that be would shoot the very first man whom he even suspected of foul play. As a matterof course he lost no more money on that trip. On my way up the Tombigbee I was first made acquainted with the true version of the witty incident which has done more than any thing else to give this river its reputation When William H. Crawford was Secretary of the Treasury he wrote to the collector at Mobile, Silas Dinsmore, to ascertain the length of this river, which request he worded to this effect : " How far does the Tombigbee run up?" To which the laconic Collector replied: "The repulsion, which, in the place of a God, form, fashion, and Tombigbee does not run up at all; it runs down;" and at work more is universally mentioned as a man of ability. A favorite theory with him was that America was peopled that we saw were rude log-cabins, and it was difficult of by the Northmen, and, as a compliment for several articles tentimes to distinguish the planter's residence from the that he wrote upon the subject, the King of Denmark domicils of his slaves; and, while a cotton-gin was invapresented him with a diploma. The original name of this means Trunk River. It was so called because in very early times a man lived upon it who made boxes. Those who now live on its banks tell me that it is subject to high resting country, brought me to Tuscalcosa, on the Black Varrior river.

And what shall I say of this famous Tuscaloosa, which derives its name from a noted Indian chief who had the honor of giving De Soto a thrashing in the times of old? It is a beautifully situated and tastefally laid out town, with broad streets and many pleasant residences, but at the present time sadly dilapidated. It was formerly the capital of the State, but every thing like government patronage having been transferred to Montgomery, its people seem to have become disheartened and lost all their former enterprise. Nothing more forcibly reminded me of this fact than the appearance of the hotel where I ledged, which in its dimensions is quite imposing, for it measures in length three hundred and forty feet, and is three or four stories high. Many a time in other days has it been the home and congregating-place of three-hundred and fifty persons, while its present list of boarders does not number more than ten persons. A walk through its deserted chambers reminded me of Moore's

town the centre of a fertile corn and cotton-growing region, but it is at the head of navigation on the Black ot less th an ten feet in thickn tion has been traced in the northern hemisphere, Prince Menschikoff had to march across mountains and dition to all this, its citizens are highly intelligent, and it

One of them, Prof. Michael Toumey, an amiable and things, not to attract the attention of the enemy. In this position it was necessary to avoid a battle, which would lished a number of able reports; and another, the lished a number of able reports; and another, Professor of ancient languages, Samuel M. Stafford, in a career of official duty extending through eighteen years, has only lost two days, and on these he was an invalid. The college buildings occupy a very pleasant spot in the vicinity of a romantic fall of water; and, while its general library of 8 000 volumes is particularly rich

The present number of students is one hundred and in order to attain the route leading by a descent to eight, and I was informed that the expenses of obtaining chernaya. The enemy executed this movement withfrom the spot where our forces were stationed; and besides loosa an extensive building, intended for a State asylum it is also covered by woody mountains.

for the insane. It is to be built of brick, is eight hun-If Prince Menschikoff had been desirous of attacking dred feet long, and while the architect, Samuel Sloan, is the enemy during the march, he could only have done so from Philadelphia, all the masons and carpenters are by one route, which, for a distance of ten wersts, is upon an ascent from the Belbek to Mackenzie's Farm. It would established here, and in the hands of Yankees are both

> that he went to New York and purchased goods upon credit to the extent of \$50,000; and what surprised me a little was the recollection that my own hands had marked his numerous packages when I was a Pearl street clerk. By way of depicting the peculiar business traits of the mated as the Patriarch of St. Stephen's. Of just modern Tuscaloosians, it has been stated to me that man was Shakspeare thinking when he wrote: while an extensive bed of coal is known to exist within a mile of the town, it is customary to order even from Phi-ladelphia the needed supply; and that while the country affords a beautiful quality of marble, the tombetones of the place are all imported from Italy. To give their sons a liberal education is a paramount idea with the planters of this region, and where they can afford it no expenses are spared; but when you come to talk about acquiring a profession and practising it, that is altogether a different affair. With many persons the impression seems to

say much of what the hands are doing.) I would state the fact that the National Intelligencer and New York Observer are the journals which you most frequently find patronised by the reading men of this section of country. And this allusion to good papers reminds me of a circumstance connected with a good book, vir. Horse-Shoe Robinson, by Mr. Kennedy. Within an hour's ride of Tascolinosa and in a lonely forest is the grave of the hero of that novel. He came from South Carolina into Alabamia, and many a city lot in St. Stephen's ever since its estant an early day and died here about ten years ago. Mady people now living remember to have heard him recount the manifold adventures he had experienced in the came the manifold adventures he had experienced in the came the manifold adventures he had experienced in the came that the had been a blacksmith he obtained the south rice of Horse-Shoe Robinson; and I am informed that to the description of his person by Mr. Kennedy ought to be added the peculiarity of remarkably high check bones and deeply sunken eyes, both strikingly indicative of his true character. He has a grandson living in Tuscaloosa of the content of the content of the above rations are easigned to that may now be bought for a dollar or two has he sold for a thousand in other days. He has been connected with respect and all this in addition to what each man is per invited to attend to that business, and for five years there invited to attend to that business, and for five years there invited to attend to that business, and for five years there invited to attend to that business, and for five years there invited to attend to that business, and for five years there in the way of flex on the convention of Alabama, and has the subtive for a dollar or two has he sold from the subtract of the shove rations are assigned to the thirty minted. He came from South Carolina into Alabama the has been connected with the personal in other for a dollar or two has he sold from the five have heard him recount the manifold at the present time.

The character of the Black Warrior or Tuscaloosa river

is precisely similar to that of the Tombigbee; and, as I came down it in a steamer that was overloaded with cotton and cattle, I will pass on to what I have to say of Demopolis. This town lies on the eastern bank of the Tombighee, and differs from its neighbors in being flankad by a rich prairie country. It was settled by a colony of French families at the conclusion of the Napoleon wars, and among them were several of his officers. One of from either side of the boat, and whenever she got entangled among the trees, which was frequently the case, there was a display of fireworks among the meesy trees more novel than interesting.

Our supply of gamblers was unusually large, and the manner in which I saw a game of cards broken up was most interesting portion of the compunity, where all are most interesting portion of the compunity, where all are nost interesting portion of the community, where all are

tion and the title page, to have been written about the year 850. It has been described to me as being eight inches long, six inches broad, and five inches thick, and is written on parchment, richly illuminated, and bound in cak. The fortunate proprietor is a resident, I believe, of the village of Greensboro', in this State.

My voyage from Demopolis to this place was attended by no remarkable incidents, but by many that were cha-racteristic of the river. We stopped at scores of planta-tions, now taking on board a handred and then only five bales of cotton, at one place a few horses and mules, and at another a lot of cattle, which the frollosome negroes forced on board the boat by biting and twisting their tails. At nearly all the landing places we noticed the negroes at work in the fields, and the women had a trick of drepwas by the return mail dismissed from office. Mr. Diasping their hoes and running to the steamboat to receive more is universally mentioned as a man of ability. A from the boatmen presents of tobacce, which were always riably attached to each plantation, there were occasion river was Ich-tom-big-a-bee, which in the Choctaw tongue ed me of a man walking on stilts, so high were the blocks means Trunk River. It was so called because in very or trunks of trees on which they stood. The owners of or trunks of trees on which they stood. the plantations where we stopped were seldom or never freshes and of course muddy, but that in summer it is picturesque and very clear. A single day was enough to exhaust the wonders of Columbus, as well as those of its more aristocratic neighbor and rival, the town of Abezder, beyond which steamboats seldom ascend, and a drive of two days, over a horrible road and an uninteresting country, brought me to Tussalogse, on the Picture. land there is a free luxuriance, so among the people is there a freedom of intercourse which gives the lie to

And now for a "disjointed chat" about St. Stephen's, which is decidedly, to my mind, one of the most interest-ing places in Alabama, because not only of its history and its patriarch, but on account of the model plantati with which and with whose proprietor I have become acquainted. But I must particularize. The modern town f St. Stephen's consists only of a picturesque bluff overlooking the Tombigbee, a post office and land office hidd in the pincy woods some two or three miles from the river, four or five rude cabins within a rifle shot of each other, also in the woods, and one large plantation, ex-tending from the river north of the bluff mentioned to the song about the halls of Tara. I felt a respect for the house for its apparent antiquity, and when informed that the landlord had been stationed here for nearly twenty years I looked upon him as a curiosity, for such things are not generally permitted by the "fast" age in which are not generally permitted by the "fast" age in which town were of stone, and, it is said, altogether presented town were of stone, and, it is said, altogether presented town were of stone. But nature and fortune were a handsome appearance. But nature and fortune were a handsome appearance. But nature and fortune were against the place, and more rapidly than it arose did it degenerate into a hamlet of no importance, when the few remaining inhabitants posted off almost in a body to Mo-bile; and it is a singular circumstance that some two hundred of the most picturesque edifices now to be found in that city once towered in beauty on the bluff of St.

But the glory of this old town is forever departed, and the Georgia Cracker spake truly when he said of it that it reminded him of what he had read in the Bible—Babby Rark woods have taken interesting to naturalists as constituting the extreme unmarked graves of men whose fortunes were identified southern limit to which the succent carboniferous vegeta- with and who ended their days on this spot. One that I abandoned cellars, while here and there may be seen the remember deserves to be mentioned with particular regard. His name was J. M. Thompson, and he was the first man who ever took a cargo of provisions from the Ohio river to the Alabama valley, and this he accomplish-ed by means of a barge of thirty-five tons, propelled by fifteen oars and manned by as many Kentuckians, who were all "half-horse and half-alligator" fellows. They had an easy time of it floating down the Mississippi, rather a dangerous one in coasting the Gulf of Mexico, and when they came in sight of the then Spanish fort of Mo-bile they hoisted the American flag and passed directly up the river without even condescending to ask permis-sion. It was a daring and high-handed act, and the guns at the fort were got ready to fire upon the trespassers, when the commandant concluded that the men must be mad, positively crazy; so they escaped unharmed. Thompson made money by his venture, became a citizen of St. Stephen's, but died a few months after his arrival. The crew that accompanied him from the Ohio took to evil ways, and the majority of them were either killed in pri-vate fights or executed by the Spanish authorities for

breaking the laws. Another man formerly identified with St. Stephen's was one McGrew. He led the life of a hunter and man-of-all-work, and had a cabin in the pine woods just with-out the limits of the town. He hated the Spanish autho-rities with his whole heart, and the compliment was reciprocated. Difficulties were constantly occurring tween the parties, and his Rob Royish exploits an ascent from the Belbek to Mackenzie's Farm. It would only have been necessary for the enemy to place a few batteries in a good position upon the heights to enable him to check our attack for so long a time that the movement of the column could not be completed without dan-ger. The enemy had the great advantage of marching place, and if its men of property would only boast less of brand upon him, was shot down and ordered to be dressger. The enemy had the great advantage of marching without guns and artillery, which in the mean time had been quietly transported by sea to Balaklava. Whoever has marched with a troop, an army or a battalion, will appreciate the difference between advancing with and without a train of artillery.

place, and if its men of property would only boast less of the income had a little more with their cotton bales and smart negroes, and do a little more with their own perpetually gloved hands, they would income the commandant's larder. The hunter was of course with their own perpetually gloved hands, they would income the commandant's larder. The hunter was of course with their own perpetually gloved hands, they would income a train of artillery.

bers of the commandant's larder. The hunter was of course with their own perpetually gloved hands, they would income a train of artillery.

bers of the body politic. Though a very slow one at the present time, it was in former days a very fast one; and, whipped at the flag-staff within the fort. The unhappy were appreciated to be publicly whipped at the flag-staff within the fort. The unhappy were appreciated to be publicly whipped at the flag-staff within the fort. as an evidence of this fact, it may be stated that every hour arrived, and he was on the spot; but before a lash lawyer glories in the title of judge, every sporting character in that of colonel, while the titles of general and captain and major are as plentiful as politicians. ries, on the contrary, marched in such a manner that they would not have been inconvenienced by an attack upon their flank, an attack which the Prince, from the nature calossa I obtained a number of items which I think worth dred dellars was offered for his body, dead or alive, and calcosa I obtained a number of items which I think worth recording as illustrative of some of the peculiar phases of fortune and Southern life. The "Flush Times of Alabama," which have been so admirably described in the popular book bearing that title, occurred in the memorable year of 1827. One individual, whose credit was at that time so low that the could not obtain his grow nonthat time so low that he could not obtain his grog upon him was killed with a pine knot, the second with a stone, credit, was nevertheless so great a favorite of fortune and the third had his shoulderblade broken with a club, whereupon the fourth Spaniard suddenly changed his course of travel, and poor McGrew was at leisure to medi-

tate upon the loss of his favorite ox.

I come now to speak of the man whom I have design nated as the Patriarch of St. Stephen's. Of just such a

" His silver hairs

Will purchase him a good opinion, And buy men's voices to commend his deeds." James Magoffin is as modest a man as he is venerable, but I trust that he will not consure me for printing his name in the Intelligencer. Officially speaking, he is the register of the land office here, and as the St. Stephen's are spared; but when you come to talk about acquiring a profession and practising it, that is altogether a different affair. With many persons the impression seems to be that the only elegant way in which to pass through life is to have a plantation and do nothing at all. To such an extent is the idea of doing nothing sometimes carried that this story is told of one individual: He had obtained a new book, and while be threw himself in his wife's chair to enjoy its contents she went out to make some calls. On her return she found her husband in bed, and, on anxiously questioning him about his health, he very coolly replied that "the fire went out and he had resorted to the bed to get warm," although at the same time there was a pile of wood in an adjoining room and a dozen servants on the premises, but the trouble of ringing the bell was not to be undertaken. But I would not be censorious in my remarks; and, by way of illustrating the healthfulness of the public mind, (though I cannot

that could not be looked into without emotion. He was attended by a suite of thirteen warriors, and in every thing that he did conducted himself like a prince and a gentleman. Mr. Magoffin having asked and obtained permission to shake his hand, the Prophet remarked "that he was glad to see a white man from the father city, and that the Magoffin having a great remarked "that he was glad to see a white man from the father city, and he was giad to see a white man from the father city, and that Gen. Washington was a great warrior." He inquired as to the stature of Washington, and on being told "just about year height," he drew himself up and took a complacent glance at his own person. After asking many questions about the "big men" at Washington, he was invited to take something to eat; and, while daintily enjoying himself—for he was much of an epicure—he turned to Mr. Magoffin and said: "Your people are fond of good living, but they don't live right. I noticed in Missouri that they eat too much hog; that is not good. If they that they eat too much hog; that is not good. If they would eat more deer meat they would run faster. If they eat so much hog they will turn to hog." On being questioned about the Indian dish of suckatash, he remarked that he knew all about it, that it came from the north, And here is an accedet with a two fold bearing. When Lt. Col. Richard Sparks was in command of Fort Stodart, in 1808, Mr. Magoffin was his clerk, and executed all his

writing. The proclamation with which Sparks fell into the movement of Reuben Kemper to invade Florida was written by the aforesaid clerk, and the press on which it was printed was the first that ever appeared in what is now the State of Alabama, and that press was brought to Fort Stodart from Knoxville, Tennessee, by a man named Samuel Miller. Sparks was undoubtedly quite willing to act as he did without any urging, but he was unfortunately supported by the then Governor of Leuising. public offices. The ancient town of St. Stephen's, as it might be called, however, and which stood upon the bluff, was a very different affair; for, about fifty years ago, it court-martial, he cunningly obtained a letter from Governor of Louisiana, Mr. Claiborne; and just before his arrest, and in time for the court-martial, he cunningly obtained a letter from Governor of Louisiana, Mr. Claiborne; and just before his arrest, and in time for the court-martial, he cunningly obtained a letter from Governor of Louisiana, Mr. ernor Claiborne sanctioning his course in the most explicit manner. This letter was kept secret until the trial was nearly ended, when Sparks, who had played many a was searry ended, when Sparks, who had prayed many a game of cards with the presiding officer, but with whom he had quarrelled, stepped up to that gentleman, and, handing him the Claiborne letter, very coolly remarked as follows: "I have all my life been in the habit of fighting savages; I have never been taken by ambush or surprise; and now, General, I will thank you to play to that card." Sparks was acquitted and Claiborne's integrity was seriously questioned; but I believe his conduct was

subsequently satisfactorily explained.

Another local incident obtained from Mr. Magoffin was about Hal's Lake, a stagnant sheet of water lying between the Tombigbee and Alabama rivers, a short dis-tance above their junction. The lake obtained its name from a negro who, about thirty years ago, ran away from his master, and in an extensive canebrake swamp border-ing the lake built himself a cabin, and subsequently established a kind of colony of runaway slaves. The spo was far more desolate than Cowper's "lodge in some wilderness," and almost the only creatures that ever pene trated into it, besides the darkies, were black bears and alligators. The business which supported that interest ing clan was that of stealing, which they carried on principally in Mobile, which they visited furtively in their canoes, travelling at night and remaining in ambush by day. y. In process of time they hatched a foolish conspira-to murder the people of Mobile, but a repentant fellow exposed the plot, whereupon the officers of justice ferret-ed out the outlaws; a desperate fight took place, many persons on both sides were killed, and so Hal's Lake re-turned to its former state of desolation. The stolen pro-

ue, and among the prisoners taken were black children

who had never seen a white man.

The model plantation to which I have alluded is by no means what Southerners call an extensive one, but the productiveness and appendages thereof are precisely similar in character to those of all well-conducted planta. tions in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. Ex-clusive of a huge domain of pine lands, the estate contains eight hundred acres, and lies in a bend of the Tombigbee river. Its negro force consists of one hundred men and women, with some fifty horses and mules, and its annual rield is about two hundred and fifty bales of cotton and six thousand bushels of corn, or perhaps fifteen thousand dollars. The very comfortable house of the overseer oc-cupies the summit of a bluff which commands a view of the whole farm, a long reach of the river, both up and lown, while the country on the opposite side of the river seems to be one vast cypress swamp, without a human habitation; while in the immediate vicinity of the house are the cabins, some twenty-five in number, occupied by the slaves, with the barns, cotton gin and press, and usually a pile beside them of cotton seeds, which, when rotted, make a profitable manure. The residence of the planter himself—L. J. Wilson, Esq.—is pleasantly situat. ed acout two miles from the river, in a fragrant pine forest, and is in every particular an elegant establishment.

At the present time the crops of the plantation have been gathered and either sold or prepared for market, so been gathered and either sold or prepared of all hands.

that ploughing is now the chief employment of all hands, both men and women. The toils of the day begin at a stated hour, an hour and a half or two hours assigned to dinner, and the plough left in the furrow or the "shovel and the hoe" thrown aside, long before the factory girls of Lowell have thought of leaving their loom. As many as four or six times in the day do the women who have young children leave there field whe they may be working nd march up in a line to nurse their children. the negroes are at work in one body in a single field, as is usually the case, they present an interesting picture. Dressed as they commonly are in loosely made clothes, as dark as the soil they till, but frequently relieved by bits of red in the way of a cravat or turban, they are always picturesque; and the jibes and jokes, the loud laughter, and witty remarks which are constantly heard prove that the slaves have quite as happy a time as the morose looking masss whose business it is to journey on horseback from one end of the plantation to the other perpetually. When a young rascal has been caught stealing or will not do his duty, he is brought up to receive a strapping, and that literally; for the much talked of "last" is nothing but a piece of leather, eighteen inches long and two and a half wide, which is attached to a wooden handle and ware received. long and two and a half wide, which is attached to a wooden handle, and never could draw blood. But not more than one in ten of the slaves on this plantation were ever touched even by this harmless strap. As to the amount of labor which the faithful servants perform, three of their days would about balance one day of a Yankee yeoman; and it is a singular fact that, while the greatest amount of labor is occasionally necessarily and the stratched to a vigor, and banks and money dealers are falling before the same of the slaves on this plantation were could draw blood. But not blast with fearful frequency. Another of our banks and money dealers are falling before the same of the slaves on this plantation were could draw blood. But not blast with fearful frequency. Another of our banks and money dealers are falling before the slaves on this plantation were could draw blood. But not blast with fearful frequency. Another of our banks and money dealers are falling before the slaves on this plantation were could draw blood. But not blast with fearful frequency. Another of our banks and money dealers are falling before the slaves on this plantation were could draw blood. But not blast with fearful frequency. Another of our banks and money dealers are falling before the slaves on this plantation were could draw blood. But not blast with fearful frequency. Another of our banks and money dealers are falling before the slaves of the Tankee yeoman; and it is a singular fact that, while the greatest amount of labor is occasionally performed by the women, they have a custom of boasting of their superior dexterity, industry, and strength. When the women become too old to do field-work, they are employed as nurses or cooks, and treated with kindness. Rude are the cabins which they all inhabit; but, when the warmth of the climate is considered, their hemes, where every husband is master, are as comfortable as need be. Among the negroes of the plantation, every individual man, woman, and child is weekly supplied with the following articles: four pounds of bacon, one peck of corn meal, one pint of molasses, three salted fish, a supply of fresh meat when killed, together with all the vegetables they may

came to the South with letters from Gen. Jackson, who was his personal friend; and among his other intimate friends were such men as the late William R. King. He was the first man in the South who paid particular attention to the culture of grapes, and as long ago as 1809 he made his hundred gallons of wine. For thirty years

was his personal friend; and among his other intimate friends were such men as the late William R. King. He was the first man in the South who paid particular attendence to the culture of corn and other valuable grains. His life has been a useful one, and it casenot be said of him that he knows not how to be old. With prepriety may we turn from Shakepeare to Armstrong and say of him—

"Thoughold, he still retainse His manip sense and energy of mind. Virtuous and wise he is, but not exerce; His easy presence checks no decent joy. Him even the dissolute admire; for he A graceful looseness when he will puts on, And, laughing, can instruct."

But I have obtained from Mr. Magoffin a variety of local facts and incidents which cannot but make an instruction of my song.

The first has reference to an interview that Mr. Magoffin which is the conduct of my song.

The first has reference to an interview that Mr. Magoffin a wariety of local facts and incidents which cannot but make an intervent of the culture of weaking and the conduction of my song.

The first has reference to an interview that Mr. Magoffin a wariety of local facts and incidents which cannot on a friendly vitted to the culture of t with sea shells, while other localities will supply him with petrified sharks' teeth and deer-horns, and whole terrapins transformed into solid stone. And he who may have a relish for curious incidents will be told that upon have a relish for curious incidents will be told that upon this very plantation did a Dutch nan, many years ago, sell himself into slavery to pay for his passage across the Atlantic, and is now one of the wealthiest planters in Alabama; and also that across a peighboring wilderness, one hundred miles in width, did a white woman, who had been deserted by her husband and was pursued by Indians, once travel on a pony with no companion but her dead infant, and that the same person was subsequently a leader in fashionable life in Washington. And now do I take my leave of St. Stephen's and the Tombigbee river, and that, too, with almost as much reluctance as was maand that, too, with almost as much reluctance as was me nifested by Mr. Wilson's body servant, a fine boy, who, when I pretended to be negotiating his purcha as if his heart would break.

## MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

In Russia the candles used in the mines are made of tallow mixed with charcoal dust, (powdered charcoal,) which is found to increase the intensity of the light. The arst cargo of American flour, under the new law,

arrived at St. Johns a few days since in the ship Marengo,

Building operations in New York city show a great falling off this year, and lumber is accumulating in great quantities for want of a market.

from New York.

Another and accident from camphine is recorded at

Philadelphia. Will people never take warning from the experience of the past? NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD. - The Greensboro' Patriot

says that Governor Morehead has just contracted for nine thousand tons of iron-enough, it is supposed, to complete the laying of the whole work. The price is \$42.50

APPLES.—The crop of apples in New England this year, as it has been in every seven years since the Baldwin came into general cultivation, is too large for the demand, and the price has been drooping until they are now dull in this vicinity and Boston at \$1.25 a \$1.50 per barrel, and may be had, delivered at the railroad depots thirty or forty miles from Boston, at 35 to 40 cents a bushel. - Newburyport (Mass.) Heraid.

In this city Baldwin apples are selling at \$2.50 a barrel. A DINNER AT HAVANA .- On the 8th instant the Captain-General of Cuba gave a complimentary dinner to Mr. Wheeler, the American Minister to Nicaragua, who arwheeler, the American Minister to Nicaragua, who arrived there a few days previous in the United States steamship Princeton, Captain Engle. Among the invited guests were Mr. Fabens, late United States Consul at Greytown, Capt. Engle, and Col. Robertson, our Consul at Havana. The Captain-General presided on the occasion. The Princeton, with Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Fabens on board, sailed from Havana for Pensacola en the 9th. KEEP YOUR BOTTLES FULL.—People are frequently found dead with an empty bottle beside them, which proves the danger of an empty and the necessity for a full one. This is the advice of the Boston Post; but what is a poor fellow of "small means" to do when the law preperty which was discovered here was of considerable vaents him from buying less than a pint at a time?

AN ANTEDILUVIAN MONSTER .- In Marion county, Illinois, a short time since, some men who were digging a deep pit found at a depth of six feet from the surface the partially decayed skeleton of some wondrous beast who had walked the earth with mighty strides long before he advent of the human race. Among the rema a horn, nine feet in length, and quite smooth, with the exception of about three feet of the butt end, which was surrounded with ridges similar to those on a sheep. The horn was two feet in circumference at the largest part A tooth was found which was five feet in length and A tooth was found which was five feet in length and twinches in diameter, having the appearance of a first jay tooth. A piece of bone eleven feet in length was als found, which was thought to have been a portion of the jaw We have recently seen reports of the discovery of the remains of like monsters in some part of Virginia, an could only account for them by supposing that Mr. Bar num or some of his agents had been there.

A BRITISH " INFERNAL MACHINE." -- Some apparat A BEITTHE "INFERNAL MACHINS."—Some apparains being constructed at Messrs. Armstrong & Co.'s, the ptentees of the hydraulic crane, at their extensiveire works on the Tyne, (England,) for the purpose of Youing to fragments the vessels now sunk at the mount, the harbor of Sebastopol. This apparatus is composed cylinders twenty-five in number, and each consistent three concentric water tight cylinders placed one that the other. The innermost cylinder will be filled with the construction of the proposed of the construction of the concentration of the con blasting powder, and the outer one will be vac galvanic wire will be inserted in the innormost o will be placed in communication with a battery face. The effect of the explosion is stated to

gious. An experiment is to be tried upon a such before these cylinders are shipped for the Crime is named as next week. The largest cylinders we tons, and when charged four tons.

TRADING OFF A WIFE .- Franklin Butterfield, TRADING OFF A WIFE.—Frankin Butterheid, Falls, (N. H.) was arrested recently on a charge of two wives. He has been to California, and says for the impression that his "old wife" was dead, and n again. Neither the justice, sheriff, or the "old wife" inclined to believe the story, but Buttorfield was set a iy on his giving the "old wife" a deed for about for dred dollars worth of real estate in Dexter, Maige.

FINANCIAL TROUBLES IN CINCINNATI. - The Cinc Commercial of Thursday says:

"The financial storm still continues with depreciated in value, and pass as current as us institution was connected in some business tr with J. H. James, of Urbana, whose failure w

ly one or paigints to see the est material

TO STATE SHEET AND THE PARTY OF

land and good west cook a live to the